

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1 immediately following the title please insert headings as follows:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**Description Field of the Invention**

On page 1, line 10 please insert a heading as follows:

**Related Technology**

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 14 has been changed as follows:

International Patent ~~Application~~ Publication WO 96/03854 describes a heat-insulating intumescent coating system that protects a substrate against fire. In this case, a first layer is applied that is thermally degradable in case of fire and that forms a first carbonized, intumescent and rigid foam layer. A second applied layer is likewise thermally degradable and forms a carbonized, intumescent foam layer that has an insulating effect. The density of the insulating layer is half the density of the first layer.

On page 4, line 25 please insert a heading as follows:

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

The paragraphs beginning on page 4, line 26 have been changed as follows:

The ~~objective of the invention is to provide~~ provides a fire protection means that is easy to transport, store and laminate, whereby the fire protection means is such that it combines a high degree of fire protection with diverse applicability in various environments.

The ~~objective of the invention is also to provide~~ provides a method for the production of the fire protection means.

According to the invention, ~~this objective is achieved in that~~ the fire protection means comprises at least one hybrid film system in which at least one film is coated with intumescent material.

The ~~objective is also achieved in that the~~ fire protection means is preferably produced as a hybrid film system in a continuous process.

The ~~objective is also achieved by a~~ fire protection means ~~that is to~~ may be integrated into a construction element, in which the fire protection means comprises at least two films or film layers that have different chemical compositions and that are transparent at least in sections, whereby at least one of the layers is configured so as to be fire-retardant.

The ~~objective is also achieved by a~~ inventive fire protection means – optionally that is to be integrated into a construction element – ~~that~~ can be produced by means of a continuous cascading method, in which first of all, a film or film layer A is applied and another film or film layer B is applied onto the former, as well as optionally another film or films and/or film layer or layers C is/are applied, characterized in that at least two of the films or film layers A, B and C have different chemical compositions and at least one of the film layers A, B or C is fire-retardant.

On page 8, line 13 please insert a heading as follows:

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 14 has been changed as follows:

Additional advantages, special features and practical embodiments of the invention ~~can be gleaned from the subordinate claims and~~ will be understood from the following presentation of preferred embodiments ~~which make reference to the drawings.~~